

III. Remarks

A. Status of the Application

Claims 53-68 will be pending after entry of the present paper. Claims 53-72 were previously pending. Claims 69-72 are canceled by the present paper without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new claims are added by the present paper. Reconsideration of this application in light of the above-amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 53-68 are allowed. With the cancellation of claims 69-72 by the present paper all of the pending claims are allowed. Accordingly, Applicants request a formal notice of allowability.

C. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 69-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,443,988 to Felt et al. (“the Felt patent”). As noted above, claims 69-72 are canceled by the present paper. Accordingly, this rejection is moot and will not be addressed at this time.

IV. Conclusion

It is believed that all matters set forth in the Office Action have been addressed and that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an indication of allowability is respectfully requested.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art to which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in this or any other Office Action.

Should the Examiner deem that an interview with Applicant's undersigned attorney would further prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office via EFS-Web on March 25, 2009



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